

Dear FCC,

As a citizen of the United States of America I am very concerned about a recent development that falls under your jurisdiction. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

If Sinclair wants to air what is clearly a thinly veiled add campaign for the Bush campaign that is fine, but the law requires that they pay for this add. Sinclair has a history of favoring one political party over the other (i.e. Sinclair's refusal to air Democratic Party advertisements, Sinclair's refusal to air a CBS special that listed the names of American soldiers killed in Iraq). The FCC under the unskillful leadership of Powell is allowing the news organizations to become mere trumpets for political parties. Americans deserve better! Please uphold the law and force the Bush campaign to pay for the Sinclair sponsored Kerry smear-campaign. Thank you.